

November 2, 2020 Narrative

Selectman Maura Curran reminded voters the polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. tomorrow (Nov. 3) at the Scituate High School gym.

If a voter received a mail-in ballot but wants to vote in person, when they go to the polls tomorrow, they should not proceed to their precinct but visit the Town Clerk's table.

If a voter will be out of town tomorrow, they can vote absentee until noon at the clerk's office at Town Hall.

If a voter received a mail-in ballot and cannot get to polls, they can deposit it in the ballot box outside Town Hall all day tomorrow or take it inside to Town Clerk's Office until 7:30 p.m.

The Board of Selectmen meets at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow (Nov. 3) via Zoom to review the Capital Plan and to continue interviews for appointments to boards and committees. The Zoom link is on the Town website [scituatema.gov] on the selectmen's agenda.

Town Administrator Jim Boudreau reported that, since last week, there have been ten new Covid cases in

Scituate in eight separate households. The other cases involved family members in two households where someone had previously tested positive.

The town has gone from the highest level “red” back to “yellow” on the state Covid map that resets the positivity clock.

If a town remains “red” for three consecutive weeks that town has to roll back from Phase 3 Step 2 to Phase 3 Step 1, affecting some recently opened business and the limit on gatherings.

Not wearing a mask impacts schools, businesses, the elderly, those with prior conditions. Everyone needs to be vigilant, put their masks on and stay home if not feeling well, Boudreau said.

The Southeastern Massachusetts drought is now “severe” down from “extreme.”

The reservoir is 33 percent full, up from 29 percent after the 3-1/2 inches of rain over the past week. Usage is at 485,000 gallons per day down from 505,000 the previous week.

The water department will continue the flushing program depending on the water supply and weather conditions.

The water department will start no-contact, seasonal shut-offs. If a resident wants a shut-off, then go to water department tab on the town website to fill out the form. [Scituatema.gov]

The Special Town Meeting is Monday, November 16th at 7 p.m. in the high school gym. The meeting is necessary to reconcile accounts for current fiscal year. There are sixteen articles on the warrant which is on the town website [scituatema.gov]. All Covid protocols will be followed, Boudreau said.

The School Committee meets tonight (Nov. 2) at 6 p.m. via Zoom [scituate.k12.ma.us] to take a first look at the School Department budget and how Covid has affected the schools.

Superintendent of Schools William Burkhead said one staff member in the district tested positive for Covid last week. That makes a total of 11 cases over the first six weeks of school. There has been no Covid community spread in the schools. The schools have partnered with the town to continue free testing of school staff through December. So far, all tests received and processed have been negative.

The state Department of Public Health is requiring all children over six months attending Massachusetts-area childcare or schools through college receive a flu shot.

The Massachusetts School Building Authority has agreed to meet with the Scituate School Department on the town's Statement of Interest application for a potential new elementary school.

Sailor shout-out this week goes to Denise Bowes who has retired after 24 years of food service in the Scituate Public Schools, primarily at Gates. Burkhead described Bowes as a most caring and kind individual whose impact on her students showed in their smiles when seeing her. When Bowes became a Nana, that nickname even stuck at work, exemplifying her relationships with everyone she came in contact with.